



**Myerscough
College**

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

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Leaders in Diversity

4 March 2021

Dear Student

As you know we will be returning to on-campus delivery at the College from next Monday 8 March across all our centres. Please remember that you must wear your College lanyard upon your return. You will, I hope, have read the letter about the return that was sent to you on 26 February; the letter is also on the College website.

The detailed letter explains how the College intends to operate from 8 March. As a reminder, the main points are as follows:

Covid-19 Arrangements at Myerscough College (All Centres)

The safety of our students and staff is paramount. The Covid-safety plans that we implemented in Term 1 proved highly effective in creating an environment which is safe for both our staff and students, and we are very proud of our record in this regard.

We will continue with those arrangements from 8 March, including:

- To support the maintenance of the curriculum bubbles, staggered breaks and lunches will continue and these will be detailed on your timetable.
- Our restaurants and eateries will be open, and space will also be provided if you prefer to bring a packed lunch and refreshments.
- One-way systems will continue to be in operation in some buildings.
- Our Library, Student Support Centres (The Core) and HE Centre will be open as usual with safety and social distancing measures in place.
- Our classrooms will continue to be set up to maintain social distancing.
- Those of you who have already got your own devices (laptops etc.) will be encouraged to bring them in to use on-campus to help reduce the demand for computers in the drop-in study areas.
- Sanitisation stations will continue to be available in all curriculum buildings and cross-College areas, including the bus stops. However, we also recommend that you also bring your own personal hand sanitiser.

These measures are kept under constant review and with that in mind the following additional requirements will be in place for the return to campus on 8 March 2021:

- Wearing of face coverings in all areas of College including in classrooms – We have extended the wearing of face coverings to everywhere on campus including during outdoor practical activities even when two metres can be maintained. The only exceptions to this rule will be for any strenuous physical activities.
- Regular lateral flow tests for all staff and students currently on site. There will be an expectation that all students will have at least one lateral flow test a week, whether that be at home or on campus, full details of this testing will be shared with you on your return to campus.

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- If you are one of our 14-16 students and attend school, you should complete your lateral flow test at school. For home educated 14-16 students, you will be required to provide consent for testing (documentation will be provided).
- Students attending our Warrington and Old Trafford, Manchester sites will commence directly with home testing - your teams will advise you accordingly.

Lateral Flow Testing

You will be aware that current Government guidance for Schools, ~~and Further Education~~ Colleges and Universities recommends that all staff and students have regular Lateral Flow Testing prior to and during the return to on-campus delivery College. The lateral flow devices (LFD) used at College have received regulatory approval from the MHRA for self-use.

The College has been carrying out asymptomatic Covid-19 testing on campus since December 2020, and staff and students currently on campus have been attending twice weekly for tests during lockdown.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help you and other students to studying in a safe environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in College. We are therefore strongly encouraging all students to take the tests which will be offered initially on campus and then after 2 to 3 tests at home thereafter.

When and Where you can Test

From 8 March, Preston students will be asked to attend the Stumble Inn for a lateral flow test, and this will be timetabled into your day via your tutor. Your tutor will lead you through the requirements and registering before you attend for your tests. You will be expected to attend up to 3 tests over the next few weeks, 3 to 5 days apart, before you are supplied with a home testing kit with instructions on how you can carry out home tests.

At our Old Trafford site, students will be offered on site testing from Monday 8 March to Wednesday 10 March. Students will also be able to attend UA92 (LCC) until home kits are distributed.

At our Warrington Walton Hall campus, all students will be offered tests collected on-site.

At our Blackburn Witton campus, students will be offered on-site testing.

Liverpool Croxteth Centre students should attend their nearest testing centre.

How the Tests Work

You will have to register beforehand and it is recommended you register before you attend College (see attached instructions with this email), and you will then be expected to administer the test yourself, full guidance provided and staff available to assist if necessary. You must not attend if you cannot self-swab but speak to your tutor for further guidance. The tests are not 100% accurate and a negative test is not a passport to carrying on your daily life 'virus-free' . . . do not let a negative Covid-19 test give you a false sense of security. It is good news that you don't have the coronavirus, however you must still follow all the restrictions and safety measures that are in place on campus to keep you safe.

What to do in the event of a Positive Test Result on Campus

Individuals with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate immediately in one of the isolation rooms on campus and arrangements made for their safe journey home in line with government guidance.

Home Testing

On receipt of the home test kit, you will be expected to conduct the test before coming into College, twice a week, preferably in a morning but can if necessary be carried out the evening before. Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Students aged under 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary. The tests supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around thirty minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Once the test has been conducted, you will log the test result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and need to also, separately, inform College of the test result to support local contact tracing, further details to follow on how to report to the College. You will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace.

The test waste can be placed in with your normal household waste.

Any incidents at home must be immediately reported to College and, in a medical emergency, you should firstly contact either 111 or 999 depending on the serious nature of the incident. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the College.

What to do in the event of a Positive Test at Home

Individuals should isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance and inform College immediately.

Residential Students

Residential Students aged 18 and over will be given home test kits and be required to test in Halls. Those under the age of 18 will be required to attend the Stumble Inn (Preston site only) for supervised testing (further details to follow).

Consent / Privacy

Students should read the Privacy Notice attached, if they choose to participate, they are consenting and committing to self-administer the test and provide their results to the NHS and College.

Students who decline to participate can still attend College if not symptomatic or they are not currently shielding.

Students who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should get tested if they show symptoms.

Lateral Flow Testing Advice Pre-Test

Before taking a Lateral Flow Test you will need to register. Please see attached instructions with this email. We recommend that you register before you attend College.

If you are aged 18 or over, you are able to order your own online lateral flow test kit for home use.

If you are aged 14-18, the College will make an appointment for your test on its sites ~~afterafetr~~ you return ~~to~~ to College. You are advised to register prior to your test appointment.

If you have any concerns of need clarification please talk to your Tutor or Progress Coach.

With very best wishes.



Steven Downham-Clarke
Vice Principal & Deputy Chief Executive